

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SSO-00

ACDA-10 IO-10 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /090 W

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R 181837Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1404

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS PARIS 18680

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: "LE MONDE" INTERVIEW WITH PORTUGUESE PDP  
LEADER

1. "LE MONDE" DATED JULY 19 PUBLISHES INTERVIEW WITH  
EMILIO GUERREIRO, LEADER OF THE PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY (PDP). FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION  
OF EXCERPTS:

Q.: YOU MET THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC BEFORE  
ANNOUNCING THE DEPARTURE OF YOUR MINISTERS. WHAT DID  
HE SAY TO YOU?

A.: GENERAL COSTA GOMES RECEIVED US CORDIALLY. HE  
TOLD US CLEARLY THAT THE PORTUGUESE PRESS WAS VERY BAD,  
WHICH PROVES THAT WE MADE A CORRECT ANALYSIS OF THE  
SITUATION WHEN WE DECIDED TO PRESENT OUR DEMANDS IN  
THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. BUT HE ESPECIALLY ASSURED US THAT  
WHAT WE ASKED FOR WAS NOT EXAGGERATED. HE JUDGED OUR  
"CONDITIONS" VERY REASONABLE. BUT HE EXPLAINED  
TO US THAT THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN RESOLVING  
THE PROBLEMS POSED, PRECLUDED HIS GIVING US A SATIS-  
FACTORY REPLY.

Q.: WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY TODAY?

A.: IT IS VERY SERIOUS. THE POLITICAL CRISIS WILL  
BE DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE. SINCE IT HAS NOT BEEN  
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POSSIBLE TO SATISFY OUR REASONABLE CONDITIONS,

IT IS CLEAR THAT NO MEMBER OF THE PPD CAN CONTINUE IN THE GOVERNMENT, EVEN PRIVATELY. IF THE GROUPS WHICH ARE NOISELY DEMONSTRATING IN LISBON WANT TO IMPOSE A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP, THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE WILL OPPOSE IT RESOLUTELY. THERE IS DANGER OF VIOLENT CONSULTATIONS. BUT WE WILL DO EVERYTHING TO AVOID IT.

Q.: DO YOU CONSIDER THAT A MILITARY GOVERNMENT WILL BE DICTORIAL?

A.: THE MILITARY DOES NOT WANT A DICTATORSHIP. I THINK THEY WILL DO EVERYTHING TO AVOID IT.

Q.: ALL THE MILITARY?

A.: THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT.

Q.: ALL THOSE IN THEAFM?

A.: ALL

Q.: DO YOU STILL BELIEVE IN THE POSSIBILITY OF A COMMON DEMARCHE BY THE POLITICAL PARTIES?

A.: CONCERTED ACTION IS STILL POSSIBLE, EVEN WITH THE COMMUNISTS, IF THEY REVISE THEIR POSITION AND UNDERSTAND, ONCE AND FOR ALL, THAT ONE CANNOT MAKE A DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIALIST REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL AGAINST THE PEOPLES' WILL.

Q.: IS THE TIME RIPE FOR AN EXTREME RIGHTIST PLOT?

A.: THE SITUATION IS NOT FAVORABLE FOR THE REACTIONARIES RIGHT NOW, BUT IF THE CRISIS CONTINUES, IT COULD BECOME SO.

GAMMON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PARIS18680  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** hartledg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 MAR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <23 MAR 2004 by hartledg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** "LE MONDE" INTERVIEW WITH PORTUGUESE PDP LEADER  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PO, LE MONDE, PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC PARTY-PDP, (GUERREIRO, EMILIO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006